

Appl. No. 09/686,830
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 25 August 2004

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Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for controlling access to information, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

maintaining, for a given entity controlling access to the information, a contact list comprising information identifying one or more other entities ~~which~~ that have attempted to communicate with the given entity, and for each of at least a subset of the entities, a contact count specifying ~~the~~ a number of times a corresponding one of the other entities has attempted to communicate with the given entity; ~~and~~

utilizing the contact list in conjunction with a revocation list associated with the given entity to determine which of at least a subset of the one or more other entities are authorized to communicate with the given entity; ~~wherein~~

updating the contact list is updated to include a new entity that is not on the revocation list; and by first determining if the contact list contains sufficient space for the new entity, and if the contact list does not contain sufficient space for the new entity,

removing from the contact list an entity selected based at least in part on its corresponding contact count.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein

the given entity and at least a subset of the one or more other entities each comprise a consumer electronics device.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein

~~the~~ maintaining the contact list and utilizing the contact list steps are implemented in an access control system associated with the given entity.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein
the revocation list comprises a local revocation list stored in the access control system.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including ~~the step of~~
updating the contact list after a modification of the revocation list.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein ~~the step of~~
updating the contact list after ~~a~~ the modification of the revocation list further includes
~~the steps of:~~
identifying all of the entities on the contact list that are on ~~the modified~~
revocation list; and
removing from the contact list each of the entities identified as being on the
~~modified~~ revocation list.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including ~~the step of~~
updating the contact list if the new entity that is not already on the contact list attempts
to communicate with the given entity.
8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 wherein ~~the step of~~
updating the contact list if the new entity that is not already on the contact list attempts
to communicate with the given entity further includes ~~the steps of:~~
determining if the new entity is on the revocation list;
storing in the contact list an entity identifier for the new entity if the new entity
is not on the revocation list ~~and if there is sufficient space available on the contact list;~~ and
terminating communication with the new entity if the new entity is on the
revocation list.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein
the entity selected for removal from the contact list is the entity on the contact list
~~which~~ that has ~~the a~~ lowest contact count.

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10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including ~~the step of~~
periodically generating a digital signature for at least a portion of the contact list.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 further including ~~the step of~~
updating the digital signature each time the contact list is updated.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein
each of at least a subset of the other entities stores a contact list having entries
corresponding to entities which have attempted to communicate with those other entities.

13. (Currently amended) An apparatus for controlling access to information, the apparatus
comprising:

a processor ~~based device for controlling that is configured to control~~ access to the
information,

wherein the processor ~~is configured to: based device is operative:~~

(i) ~~to maintain~~ a contact list comprising information identifying one or more
other entities ~~which that~~ have attempted to communicate with the ~~processor based device~~
~~apparatus~~, and for each of at least a subset of the entities, a contact count specifying ~~the a~~
number of times a corresponding one of the other entities has attempted to communicate with
the ~~given entity apparatus~~, and

(ii) ~~to utilize~~ the contact list in conjunction with a revocation list associated
with the ~~given entity apparatus~~ to determine which of at least a subset of the one or more
other entities are authorized to communicate with the ~~processor based device apparatus~~; and
wherein

~~update~~ the contact list ~~is updated~~ to include a new entity ~~that is~~ not on the
revocation list; ~~and by first determining if the contact list contains sufficient space for the new~~
~~entity, and if the contact list does not contain sufficient space for the new entity, removing~~

~~remove~~ from the contact list an entity selected based at least in part on its
corresponding contact count.

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14. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage medium containing one or more software programs for use in controlling access to information, wherein the programs when executed on a processing device causes the processing device to implement the steps of:

maintaining, for a given entity ~~controlling that controls~~ access to the information, a contact list comprising information identifying one or more other entities ~~which that~~ have attempted to communicate with the given entity, and for each of at least a subset of the entities, a contact count specifying ~~the a~~ number of times a corresponding one of the other entities has attempted to communicate with the given entity; ~~and~~

~~utilizing use~~ the contact list in conjunction with a revocation list associated with the given entity to determine which of at least a subset of the one or more other entities are authorized to communicate with the given entity; ~~wherein~~

update the contact list ~~is updated~~ to include a new entity that is not on the revocation list ~~by first determining if the contact list contains sufficient space for the new entity, and if the contact list does not contain sufficient space for the new entity, removing; and~~

remove from the contact list an entity selected based at least in part on its corresponding contact count.

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